



April - June 2007



LELAP NEWS

Proficiency Test (PT) Requirements for LELAP, including lists of approved PT Providers, have been updated on the LELAP web page: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2412/Default.aspx>. Air Liquide America Corp., Houston, TX, is the only LELAP approved PT provider for Stack, Fugitive, and/or Ambient Air testers. On April 13, 2007, Karen Varnado became the LELAP QA/QC Officer. Dr. David Boucher served as the Acting Supervisor of the LELAP section from April 13–July 1, 2007. Paul Bergeron has returned to LELAP and was promoted to supervisor on July 1, 2007.

DEADLINE FOR VOTING ON TNI STANDARDS COMING SOON

The deadline for voting on the *Draft* Interim Standards prepared by The NELAC Institute (TNI) is July 31, 2007. These standards will be presented for discussion at the Forum on Laboratory Accreditation meeting, August 20–24, 2007 in Cambridge, MA. Any TNI member may vote and comment on these modules. Subsequently, the standards will be published as Interim Standards for TNI membership vote. Additional information may be found on the TNI website at <http://www.nelac-institute.org>.

METHOD UPDATE RULE (MUR) AND LDEQ PERMIT GUIDANCE ON THE MUR

A letter was sent out to all LELAP accredited laboratories concerning EPA's Method Update Rule (MUR). This letter offers guidance for laboratories and also clarifies LELAP's position on this important issue. The letter is posted on the Laboratory Services Division (LSD) web page at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/72/Default.aspx>. A memo from the Water Permits Division, also posted on the LSD web page, offers similar MUR guidance, specifically addressing permit holders.

QUARTERLY ANALYTICAL UPDATE

The LDEQ laboratory has conducted 29,518 analytical tests so far in CY2007. 17,469 of these analytical tests were performed during the second quarter of 2007. These analyses were conducted in the areas of General Chemistry, General Organics, Air Organics, Metals, and Radiation.

LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION STAFF UPDATE

The following employees have recently joined the Laboratory Services Division staff — Angela Sampere and Jacki Bollich in the General Chemistry section, Hoan Nguyen in the General Organics section, Juliette Collins in the LELAP section, and Brenda Vessel in the Administrative section; two Environmental Laboratory Ph. D Interns from Southern University — Lea Dixon and Brian Bourgeois; a student intern—Charles Waguespack; and three student workers—Justin Tullier, Crystal Minor, and Lawrence Sanford. Nicole Anthony has been promoted to supervisor for the General Chemistry section.

NELAC CERTIFICATION AWARDED

After completion of the NELAC audit in March 2007, the LDEQ Environmental Laboratory was awarded additional NELAC certifications in the areas of Air Organics, Semivolatiles, and General Chemistry (Metals). The Radiation section of the Laboratory is currently scheduled to undergo a NELAC audit in December 2007.

LDEQ LAB - NATIONAL AWARD WINNER

The LDEQ Environmental Laboratory was named the 2006-2007 National Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Gold Standard Award winning laboratory for the Lab's level of effort put forth during the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The understaffed laboratory processed more than 134,000 samples, their highest number ever, most of which were associated with the hurricanes. The Department's news release can be read at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/portals/0/news/pdf/DEQlaboratoryreceivesnationalaward.pdf>. A television editorial by local news channel WAFB was also aired regarding the Lab's award; it can be viewed at http://www.wafb.com/Global/category.asp?C=4474&nav=menu57_12.

We solicit your questions, comments, problems, and/or recommendations for this newsletter. Please send them to deqlaboratory@la.gov or call 225-219-9800.

[Click here](#) for more information.



National Environmental Laboratory
Accreditation Program Certificate #E37974



National Environmental Laboratory
Accreditation Program Accrediting
Authority Certificate #2006-11